

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 26, 2016
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Human Services District was held on Friday February 26, 2016 at the District Office, located at 1010 Common Street, Suite 600, New Orleans, La. 70112. The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m. Roll was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Board members in attendance were: Dr. Joe Constans, Dr. Sarintha Stricklin, Sylvie Tran and Dr. Cathy Lazarus, Dr. Petrice Sams-Abiodun. Board members absent: Charlotte Parent, Dr. Emily Clark.

Other individuals present were: Gary Mendoza, Steven J. Farber, Dr. Charlotte Cunliffe, Dr. Brenda Webster, Julie Olsen, and Andrew Vangrove.

Approval of the February 04, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Tran moved to approve the February 04, 2016 minutes. Dr. Abiodun seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chair's Report: Dr. Constans closed the search committee and gave thanks to the committee members. Dr. Constans announced that the new Executive Director, Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, M.D., F.A.P.A will begin her position on March 14, 2016 and introduced the following board resolutions: a Resolution to give signature authority to the new Executive Director on all contracts and agreements on behalf of MHSD. Dr. Lazarus moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Abiodun seconded the resolution and it passed unanimously; and a Resolution to give signature authority to the new Executive Director on all bank accounts on behalf of MHSD. Dr. Stricklin moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Tran seconded the resolution and it passed unanimously.

Interim Executive Director's Report: Mr. Gary Mendoza presented an analysis of the current year fiscal situation and the FY17 budget projections. He stated that MHSD, as with all Executive Branch agencies, have been told to prepare for a 24% cut in budget for FY17. MHSD management is working on identifying efficiencies and reductions to its operating budget to determine where these cuts could be taken with the least amount of services being cut to the public.

Monitoring Reports: In accordance with the Board's monitoring calendar, Dr. Cunliffe suggested that the review of the policy on the Executive Director Communication and Support of the Board be deferred to a later time until the new Executive Director is in place. She shared that the media coverage mentions were in the board packet and she confirmed that the organization had not entered into any agreements that exceeded \$300,000 since the Board approved the list of contracts on February 04, 2016 as per Board policy. She presented a request for approval for a re-allocation of \$10,000 for a previously approved contract (see attachment 1) for the current fiscal year that was over the \$300,000 amount. This re-allocation will ensure that allocated Federal grant monies are spent given some newer providers have had a slower start up than planned. Dr. Lazarus moved to approve the contract at the new amount as presented. Ms. Tran seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Parish Reports: There were no reports from the representatives present.

Other Business: No other business was conducted.

Invitation for Public Comment: Plaquemines Community CARE Centers Foundation, Executive Director, Julie Olsen, and The New Orleans Advocate, Reporter Andrew Vangrove were in attendance. Ms Olsen, reported that she attended CADCA National Conference in Washington DC.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.